

8. Solid Medical Waste Disposal Procedures Chart

Sharps Container	Lab Container	Pathology Container	Pickup Container
Used for — All: Needles with or without syringes or tubing Blades (razors, scalpels, etc.) Contaminated only with medical/biohazardous waste: Broken glass Glass pipettes Microscope slides Other sharp items	Used for — Any solid contaminated with medical/biohazardous waste that does not go into a sharps container or a pathology container Can accept sharps containers	Used for — Animal carcasses Large tissue specimens Recognizable human or animal body parts and tissues	Used for — Red-bagged regulated medical waste from lab containers Clear-bagged biohazardous waste from lab containers Regulated medical waste sharps containers Unregulated waste sharps containers
Bag color: Regulated medical waste sharps must be deposited into a container lined with a red bag . Unregulated waste sharps may go into a lab container lined with a clear bag or into the pickup container lined with a red bag .	Bag color: Regulated medical waste must be deposited into a container lined with a red bag . Unregulated biohazardous waste goes into a container lined with a clear bag.	Bag color: Store regulated medical pathology waste in a closed red bag in the freezer. Store unregulated pathology waste in a closed clear bag in the freezer. Line the pathology pickup container with a red bag . This container accepts all pathology waste.	Bag color: Line the pickup container with a red bag. This container accepts clear-bagged waste and red-bagged waste in the same pickup container.
Labels: Regulated medical waste sharps must have the biohazard label or symbol. Unregulated waste sharps are labeled unregulated sharps.	Labels: Lab containers for medical/biohazardous must have biohazard labels or symbols.	Labels: Write your name and extension plus the date waste is put into freezer on the bagged waste. The pathology pickup container is labeled biohazard and pathology waste.	Labels: Pickup containers must have biohazard labels or symbols.
Storage time limit: Sharps containers may be used until they are 2/3 full. Dispose of the sharps container the same day it is closed.	Storage time limit: Dispose of regulated medical waste (red bag) weekly. Transfer unregulated biohazardous waste (clear bag) when the bag is full.	Storage time limit: Best-management practice is to store pathology waste in the freezer for no more than 7 days. The maximum amount of time regulated pathology waste is allowed to be stored in the freezer is 90 days.	Storage time limit: Pickup containers with waste must be removed for treatment every 7 days.
Disposal: Close the sharps container when 2/3 full. Dispose of in either a lab container or a pickup container. Fill out a Medical Waste Accumulation Log.	Disposal: Tie or tape the bag closed and carry it in the lab container to the pickup container. Fill out a Medical Waste Accumulation Log.	Disposal: Transfer bagged waste to pathology pickup container for contractor to pickup for offsite treatment and disposal. Fill out a Medical Waste Accumulation Log.	Disposal: Contractor picks up the waste weekly for offsite treatment and disposal.

If your waste is contaminated with chemical and/or radioactive materials, do not dispose of as medical waste. Biohazardous waste means waste that requires biological inactivation in an approved manner prior to final disposal and includes the following: human cell lines and tissue cultures; organisms with recombinant DNA; cultures and stocks of infectious agents; potentially infectious bacteria, viruses, and spores; toxins; live and attenuated vaccines; blood and blood products; carcasses; tissue specimens; recognizable human or animal body parts; soil with pathogens; and labware that has come in contact with aforementioned waste streams.